

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05
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-----280208Z 068544 /73

R 271356Z JAN UU
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1551
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 25

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN "SPECIAL CATEGORY" CONTROVERSY

1. IN STATEMENT RELATING TO ASPECTS OF END OF "SPECIAL CATEGORY" (POLITICAL) STATUS FOR CONVICTED TERRORISTS, LEADERS OF PRISONERS FROM FIVE PARAMILITARY GROUPS AT LONG KESH/MAZE PRISON PROTESTED GOVERNMENT DECISION TO END INTER-COMPOUND MEETINGS. STATEMENT, SMUGGLED OUT TO BELFAST NEWS LETTER AND PUBLISHED JANUARY 25, WAS SIGNED BY DESMOND GREEN -- IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, GUSTY SPENCE -- ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE, JAMES SCULLION - PROVISIONAL IRA, WILLIAM SLOAN - ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION AND ADRIAN CLARKE - OFFICIAL IRA. DOCUMENT ALLUDED TO SITUATION AT CRUMLIN ROAD JAIL WHERE LOYALIST AND REPUBLICAN PRISONERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXERCISE AND MEALS AT SAME TIMES AND WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL CLASHES. STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT IT UNREASONABLE TO SUGGEST THAT PRISONERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY HAD LITTLE OR NO CONTACT AND WHO HAVE OPPOSED EACH OTHER IN EXTREME VIOLENCE ON STREETS COULD LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN JAIL. THE STATEMENT CITED: "SEPARATE ADOLESCENCE, SEPARATE PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT, SEPARATE GHETTOS
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AND IN MANY PLACES SEPARATE EMPLOYMENT."
THE STATEMENT CLAIMED
THAT "INTEGRATION MUST BE SOUGHT BY THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES....
A GRADUAL PROCESS...." AND THAT BY ACCOMMODATING A SERIES OF
FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS, THE MAZE AUTHORITIES CONTRIBUTED TO A
PRISON "NO CONFLICT" POLICY OVER FIVE YEARS IN WHICH "NOT ONE

SECTARIAN BLOW HAS BEEN STRUCK." CONGEN NOTES THAT UDA OUTSIDE LONG KESH HAS ALREADY DISCLAIMED STATEMENT AND CONGEN DOES NOT INTERPRET PRISONERS' STATEMENT AS CALL FOR INTEGRATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND SOCIETY.

2. IN WEEKLY SECURITY REVIEW JANUARY 25 OFFICERS INFORMED SECRETARY OF STATE MASON THAT 89 PRISONERS CONVICTED OF TERRORIST CRIMES COMMITTED AFTER ENDING OF SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS WERE CONFORMING TO PRISON RULES AND DIISCIPLINE AND THAT 46 WERE STILL PROTESTING. THE LATTER HAD NOW LOST TOAL OF SIX YEARS REMISSION. MR. MASON EMPHASIZED NON-CONFORMISTS WERE LENGTHENING THEIR SENTENCES AND EMPHASIZE ".....THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBLY OF SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS EVERY BEING RE-INTRODUCED NOR OF ANY AMNESTY BEING GRANTED....."SPICER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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